

**NO. PD-1279-19**

**TO THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS**

**OF THE STATE OF TEXAS**

**RAMIRO CASTILLO-RAMIREZ,**

*Plaintiff-Appellant,*

**v.**

**THE STATE OF TEXAS,**

*Defendant-Appellee.*

FILED  
COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS  
4/16/2020  
DEANA WILLIAMSON, CLERK

**Appeal from Cause 16-CR-271, Starr County  
And No. 04-18-00514-CR, San Antonio Court of Appeals**

**APPELLANT'S FIRST MOTION TO EXTEND TIME FOR FILING HIS REPLY BRIEF  
TO STATE'S BRIEF ON THE MERITS**

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**TO THE HONORABLE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS:**

Pursuant to TEX. R. APP. P. 10.5(b) and 68.2(c), the appellant, Ramiro Castillo-Ramirez, files this First Motion to Extend Time to File Appellant's Reply to State's Brief on the Merits.

The appellant's reply brief is due April 22, 2020.

Counsel for the appellant respectfully requests an extension of time to May 22, 2020, or 30 days. This is the first request for extension of time to file the reply brief.

Counsel for the appellant relies on the following reasons: The State filed its Brief on the Merits on March 23, 2020.

There are two attorneys representing the Appellant in his Reply Brief are Linda Gonzalez and Jessica Anderson of the Starr County Regional Public Defender Office of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc. Both attorneys are the only two managers of the Regional Public Defender Office. On March 16, 2020, the office was physically closed and all staff was sent to work remotely due

to concerns from the COVID-19. The service counties of the office, Starr, Duval, and Jim Hogg also have shelter-in-place orders. Both Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Anderson, since March 16, 2020, and apart from tending to their regular casework, including court hearings and virtual client meetings, have had to participate in a significant increase of emergency management telephonic and zoom meetings within the larger organization, as well as within the public defense community at large. This was necessary in order to ensure all staff was properly equipped to work from home and so that clients could be served effectively while working remotely.

Additionally, emergency concerns about the local county jail population was expressed by the local District Judges of the service areas. As managing attorneys, we participated in numerous phone calls and zoom meetings with judges, prosecutors, and inmates to get the inmate population as low as our counties required. This task has required entire work weeks of time leading up to now.

Lastly, at least one attorney for Appellant, Ms. Gonzalez, has lost childcare for her two young children, ages two (2) years and five (5) months, due to COVID-19 stay-at-home orders which has significantly decreased her ability to work during these times.

While counselors have begun to construct the reply brief in this cause, Counselors believe that the above-mentioned responsibilities have prevented them from devoting the attention needed to complete the brief by the April 22, 2020 deadline.

Counselors for the Appellant seek this extension of time to be able to prepare a cogent and succinct reply brief to aid this Court in its analysis of the issues presented. This request is not sought for delay but so that justice may be done.

All facts recited in this motion are within the personal knowledge of the counsel signing this motion, therefore no verification is necessary under Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 10.2.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

For the reasons set forth above, the appellant requests that this Court grant this First Motion to Extend Time to File Appellant's Reply Brief to State's Brief on the Merits and extend the Deadline for filing the Appellant's reply brief up to and including May 22, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /s/ Jessica Anderson  
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Attorney for Appellant

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that, on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020, this Motion was served on the State's Prosecuting Attorney and the Starr County District Attorney's Office via certified electronic service provider to:

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/s/ Jessica Anderson  
JESSICA D. ANDERSON

### **Automated Certificate of eService**

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Associated Case Party: State Prosecuting Attorney

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